



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Authorization for Release of Medical Information for Black Lung Benefits**

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Office of Workers Compensation Programs (OWCP)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

**DATES:** The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review - Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) if the information will be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) the accuracy of the agency's estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (4) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (5) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nora Hernandez by telephone at 202-693-8633, or by email at DOL\_PRA\_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Black Lung Benefits Act, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 901 et seq., and 20 CFR 725.405 require that all relevant medical evidence be considered before a decision can be made regarding a claimant's eligibility for benefits. By signing the CM-936 form, the claimant authorizes physicians, hospitals, medical facilities or organizations, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to release medical information about the miner to the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the *Federal Register* on September 13, 2021 (86 FR 50909).

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. *See* 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

*Agency:* DOL-OWCP.

*Title of Collection:* Authorization for Release of Medical Information for Black Lung Benefits.

*OMB Control Number:* 1240-0034.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or Households.

*Total Estimated Number of Respondents:* 5,000.

*Total Estimated Number of Responses:* 5,000.

*Total Estimated Annual Time Burden:* 417 hours.

*Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden:* 0.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D))

**Nora Hernandez,**

*Departmental Clearance Officer.*

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